

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

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Media Contact: Jeff Harris, 317/232-3396
Diane Wieland, 317/ 232-6699

Kernan Awards Grant to Westfield's Porter Engineered Systems

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan announced today that the Indiana Department of Workforce Development has awarded a \$79,418 Incumbent Worker Training grant to Westfield's Porter Engineered Systems to upgrade the skills of 40 employees.

Founded in 1977, Porter Engineered Systems produces infinitely adjustable mechanical seat recliners used by more than 30 different automotive manufacturers around the world. Following an investment in new equipment, the company will match the state funding and offer employees the ability to pursue degrees in Business Management, Information Technology, Accounting, or Human Resources, among others. Some employees will pursue robotics training.

"We are proud to partner with Porter to help them meet their commitment to strengthening the skills of their workers," Kernan said. "It's an investment in their workforce, their company and in Indiana as a whole."

Training will be conducted at various state educational institutions including Indiana University, Indiana Institute of Technology, ITT Technical Institute and Ivy Tech State College. At the end of this two-year grant, 14 people will receive a state-issued Certificate of Technical Achievement and 26 will earn college degrees.

"This grant will financially assist us with our tuition reimbursement program for team members. We truly believe that the success of our company lies in the hands of an educated workforce," said Rick Schiess, Porter Engineered Systems general manager.

All Indiana businesses are eligible to apply for Incumbent Worker Training grants. The grants are designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana, through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, works with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates the a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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